million litres per day and 1 million litres per day capacities. The scheme also includes other works such as construction of 36 units of low cost toilets, river front development of 8 ghats, 9 units of improved wood crematoria, renovation of 4 ponds, afforestation and public participation & public awareness. The Government of India has released an amount of Rs. 41.60 crore so far to this project.

The project at Nasik and Trimabakeshwar are targeted for completion by March 2003, before the commencement of ensuing Kumbh Mela.

Protection of natural forest of Andamans

2554. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state the action taken to protect the natural forests of Andamans, being exploited by the saw mills?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): The Supreme Court, in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/95 has issued various directions for conservation and protection of natural forests of Andaman & Nicobar Islands which, *inter alia*, include the following:

(a) Ban on felling of trees from the forest of Little Andaman, national parks, sanctuaries and tribal reserves. For other areas, revised working plans will be submitted to the Court.

(b) No felling of trees shall be permitted for meeting any raw material requirement of the plywood, veneer, black board, match sticks or any other wood based industries.

(c) The licences of all the saw mills and wood-based industries shall not be renewed after 31st March, 2003, however, these units are permitted to exhaust the existing stock till 31st March, 2003. Henceforth for meeting the local requirement only the Government saw mills shall operate.

In view of the above directions of Supreme Court, there is no threat to natural forests of Andamans to be exploited by the saw mills.

Conservation of Hussain Sagar Lake

2555. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hussain Sagar Lake at Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh has been covered under the National Lake Conservation Plan;